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THE WASHINGTON POST
1515 L STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON 5, D.C.

Philip L. Graham
Publisher

PERSONAL

August 10, 1954

Dear David:

Some further inquiries about your future plans:

We are at a major crossroads with the expanded paper. It has now practically doubled the size of our prior operations. Obviously, the new situation more than doubles our journalistic responsibilities and opportunities. I don't have to explain to you what it means to have the only morning paper in the Nation's Capital.

In the past I have always thought of Mr. Meyer's and my alone having proprietorial interests. Mr. Meyer recently raised the question of whether I would not be aided by having you as an associate. After considerable discussion, he and I think it might be possible to devise a plan of association that would interest you.

In the broadest terms this possibility would involve (a) a financial participation that would be sizeable but that should be quite attractive; (b) a personal participation in news and editorial policy matters, particularly on the national and international level; and (c) participation in general policy matters affecting the whole enterprise as you were interested.

Again, in very general terms, I think it may be possible to devise a role for you here that would allow you effectively to follow your major interests in the field of public affairs from a position outside official life. Because of the independent policy of the paper this would involve permanent divorcement from Government activity.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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If you were interested your present time schedule would be no obstacle. That is, this association could begin at any time of your choosing in 1955. However, in our general planning, I would like to know reasonably soon whether you would be interested.

Obviously, you cannot make a decision on the basis of this letter. I write it only so you can tell me if you have plans or commitments that clearly mean you cannot consider it.

If there is nothing that bars your considering the matter I would like to fly over for a couple of days to discuss it with you. If I should do so I could give you full information on which you could make an intelligent decision.

I realize this is probably a bad time for you with the Assembly debate in the offing. If you are at all interested I would like to have our discussion reasonably soon. For that reason I suggest that if you want to discuss this matter you cable me at once which dates would be best for you. Assuming the airlines areccooperative, I could get there August 20th or 21st, or any date the following two weeks.

If you are at all interested we must have time for leisurely and reflective talk. If the impending Assembly debate means that you cannot have any really free time during the dates I suggest, I would prefer to wait till the debate is over even though time is somewhat of the essence from my point of view.

As an in between measure, you may decide that a telephone conversation would be helpful before deciding whether I should come over. If so, cable me when you shall call and I shall stand by the phone. I shall be at the office (Republic 7-1234) Friday, August 13th, until 4:00 p.m., or later if necessary. On Saturday and Sunday, Augus 14th and 15th, I shall be at the farm (Marshall, Virginia, 5141) and on Monday from 11:00 a.m. on I shall be at the office again.

Sincerely,

PHIL

Philip L. Graham

Honorable David Bruce,
Amer. Embassy
Paris, France.

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